

**U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service  
Systematic Mycology and Microbiology Laboratory - Nomenclature Fact Sheets**

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***Sporisorium ehrenbergii* (J.G. Kühn) Vánky 1990**

This smut was first described as *Sorosporium ehrenbergii* by J.G. Kühn in 1877. It was subsequently transferred to the genus *Tolyposporium* by Patouillard in 1903. Finally it was transferred to the genus *Sporisorium* to yield the current accepted name, *Sporisorium ehrenbergii* (J.G. Kühn) Vánky 1990. *Tolyposporium filiferum* Busse 1904 is a taxonomic synonym.

With the exception of a single report on *Pennisetum typhoides* (Lenné 1990), this smut is confined to *Sorghum* spp. The common name for the disease is long smut, and it is described as causing only slight losses (Ainsworth 1965). It is common in Africa and Asia (C.M.I. 1985). Vánky (1994) describes it as possibly present in South and Southeast Europe, without supporting detail. It has not been reported as occurring in the United States.

***Sporisorium ehrenbergii* (J.G. Kühn) Vánky 1990 (Ustilaginomycetes, Ustilaginales)**

≡ *Sorosporium ehrenbergii* J.G. Kühn 1877

≡ *Tolyposporium ehrenbergii* (J.G. Kühn) Pat. 1903

≡ *Sorosporium ehrenbergii* var. *ehrenbergii* J.G. Kühn 1877

≡ *Tolyposporium ehrenbergii* var. *ehrenbergii* (J.G. Kühn) Pat. 1903

= *Tolyposporium filiferum* Busse 1904

≡ *Sorosporium filiferum* (Busse) Zundel 1930

**Distribution:** Africa, Asia. Possibly present in South and Southeast Europe (Vánky 1994).

**Substrate:** Flowers (ovaries).

**Disease Note:** Long smut. Seed-borne.

**Host:** *Sorghum* spp. (Poaceae).

**Supporting Literature:**

Ainsworth, G.C. 1965. *Tolyposporium ehrenbergii*. C.M.I. Descr. Pathog. Fungi Bact. 76: 1-2.

Vánky, K. 1990. Taxonomical studies on Ustilaginales. VI. Mycotaxon 38: 267-278.

Vánky, K. 1994. European Smut Fungi. Gustav Fischer Verlag, Stuttgart, 570 pages.

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**Additional references:**

C.M.I. 1985. *Tolyposporium ehrenbergii*. C.M.I. Map 377 : 1-2.

Lenné, J.M. 1990. World List of Fungal Diseases of Tropical Pasture Species. Phytopathol. Pap. 31 : 1-162.

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